



Nevada Department of Agriculture

Director, Don Henderson

Activities & Achievement Report

April, 2005

Administration

- Rick Gimlin is working with Budget Division and Legislative Counsel Bureau staff to revise the allocation method to fund the Administration account. The revision was requested by Senator Beers during the Department's budget hearing on March 11, 2005. Changes to the allocation schedule will affect all budgets with full-time staff.
- The Department's new and improved web page was launched during March, providing improved access to constituents using dial-up connections. Several improvements were made to provide a more consistent format and usable information. The Department extends many thanks to Linda DeSantis and Wanda Cox from the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) for their efforts to bring this project to fruition.

Veterinary Science

- On March 7th Dr. Keith Forbes gave a presentation about Scrapie to the 4H club at the Douglas County extension office. On March 11th and 18th he represented the Department at two Pandemic Influenza planning meetings. On March 15th Dr. Forbes attended a planning meeting for the Emergency Preparedness Legal Roundtable Exercise on May 6th in Mesquite.
- Throughout March Dr. Dan Crowell met with NDOW personnel and private practitioners in Ely, Eureka, Winnemucca and Battle Mountain to discuss the new expanded role of the Senior Veterinary Diagnostician position at the ADL in Elko.

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- Major Robert Scott, DVM, MPH, Public Health Team Chief stationed in Baghdad contacted Dr. Anderson requesting permission to use the BOWWOWOW Fun Pages that appear on the BOWWOWOW.Com Web site to educate Iraqi children on dog bite prevention. The fun pages depict 12-dog safety teaching points that children should be aware of to prevent being bitten. The caption that appears below each picture will be translated into Arabic and put in a booklet, which will be included in a public health campaign for distribution to Iraqi school children. Major Scott reports that there is a significant animal bite problem in Baghdad with all the concurrent side effects and that he is very impressed with Nevada's dog safety program. The complete BOWWOWOW Dog Safety Program is also being used to help teach children how to act responsibly and safely when interacting with dogs in the Galapagos Islands.

Plant Industry

- The state pest committee met to discuss future projects and develop a state pest list. The list will be distributed to the members of the committee for ranking. Committee members are: Nevada Department of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture-Plant Protection Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture Smuggling and Trade Interdiction, and the Nevada Division of Forestry.
- Jeff met with developers of the Winnemucca Ranch area to discuss Mormon cricket control plans for that area.
- Mormon cricket started hatching in late March across northern and central Nevada. Steve Marty and Jeff Knight began producing maps and reports from survey information gathered by Reno and Winnemucca survey crews.
- Jeff Knight, Jon Carpenter and Marilyn Tomkins inspected a Reno warehouse for an introduced longhorn beetle. None were found. The warehouse is disposing of artificial Christmas trees which were recalled by USDA.
- On March 13th thru the 16th Gary Cross attended the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies Western Conference. This was an historic meeting in that national voting membership went from 150 voting to about 40. The Department is the only state agency that can vote which is not part of a crop improvement association. Also protocols for certifying a new Hybrid Alfalfa which is being grown in Nevada, California, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana are being discussed among these states.
- The Department's seed analyst position (previously filled by Terry Dunfield) has been advertised since February. So far none of the applicants have the necessary seed testing experience.

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- Gary Cross judged the Star State Agribusinessman and Star State Farmer Degrees categories for the Nevada State FFA Conference. Gary also judged the Regional State science fair projects for grades 5-8. Over 300 projects were entered.

Weights & Measures

Division of Measurement Standards

- Administrator is tracking legislation concerning agency and attending hearings.
- The Director and Administrator met with petroleum industry representatives concerning the Division and industry future plans for weights and measures.
- Asbestos abatement will begin early April for the remaining portion of the weights and measures building.

Bureau of Weights and Measures

- Metrology Lab will be closed for 3 weeks in April due to construction and training.
- Statewide inspections are on schedule

Program	Number checked	Number of failures
Device Inspection	3072	212
Fuel Sampled	112	3
Consumer Complaints	16	2

Bureau of Petroleum Technology

- Construction of the petroleum lab is almost complete.
- Petroleum Laboratory equipment and staff will move mid-April

Wildlife Services

- The Nevada Wildlife Services South District would like to welcome Heather Clove as its newest addition to the District. Heather will be working with various resort properties as well as the local wildlife rehabilitator under the displaced urban wildlife program as a Wildlife Technician. Heather comes to WS having previous field experience with NDOW and is currently finishing a BS degree in biology at UNLV.
- It's calving time again in Nevada and the Division of Resource Protection is busy with several projects to protect cattle and calves from ravens. On Monday, March 7th, Troubleshooter Derril Fry placed 150 DRC-1339 treated eggs to remove ravens responsible for the death of three calves valued at \$1,500. During the previous week TS Fry conducted a visit to the ranch to determine the number of ravens in the area and confirm the damage was indeed caused by ravens. Upon inspection 60-80 ravens were observed in the pasture harassing calving heifers.
- On Thursday, March 10th, District Supervisor Darren Williams and Wildlife Biologist Joe Caudell initiated a control project for a local cooperator in order to remove

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raccoons. The cooperator had been experiencing problems with a localized population of raccoons occupying a defunct section of their property and requested assistance from WS with their removal. Initial removal efforts resulted in approximately 12 individuals removed and the positive identification of Raccoon Roundworm (*Baylisascaris procyonis*) and Capillarid Roundworm (*Capillaria*) from the raccoons and their latrine sites. Current evidence indicates renewed raccoon activity on the property. Equipment was set and protection efforts are ongoing.

- Due to the ever increasing requests for assistance with urban waterfowl, the Division of Resource Protection and Wildlife Services are developing an informational brochure for the residents of Southern Nevada. The brochure will provide technical assistance on how to deal with urban waterfowl, including the correct steps to follow for a successful pre-baiting program, should WS intervention become necessary. The draft brochure is currently under a revision and formatting review process by Wildlife Services Legislative and Public Affairs Division. Once approved, the brochure will be provided to the public for their information.
- On March 3rd and March 4th, at the request of the Nevada Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services Pilot Scott Jensen participated in the Storey County Horse Survey. During the two day flight over 800 feral horses were observed within Storey County. The Nevada Department of Agriculture provided ground support staff during aerial operations. There will probably be another feral horse count in August.